

Application no. 10/072,220

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Supplemental Amendment dated: September 2, 2003

Reply to office action dated: April 15, 2003

Amendments to Claims

Please amend claims 1, 15, 17, 24, 33, 42 and 43 as shown below.

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing an advertising flight in an online a pay for placement marketplace among one or more advertisers and one or more searchers, the method comprising:

maintaining a computer network-accessible database of advertiser search listings,

each search listing including a bid amount, a search term and a network location identifier of an advertiser associated with the search listing,

the bid amount corresponding to economic value given by the associated advertiser to an operator of the online pay for placement marketplace when network locations of the associated advertiser are referred to a searcher in response to a database query from the searcher,

search results produced from the database in response to the database query being displayable to the searcher in a rank according to the bid amounts of the search listings of the search results;

receiving advertising flight parameters from an advertiser,

from time to time, reviewing bid amounts for specified advertiser search listings in

the pay for placement online marketplace; and

adjusting bid amounts of the specified advertiser search listings to achieve specified advertiser goals of the advertising flight parameters.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving advertising flight parameters comprises:
- receiving one or more advertiser search terms;
 - receiving a flight budget; and
 - receiving a flight interval.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving advertising flight parameters comprises:
- receiving one or more of
 - a maximum average cost per click over the received one or more advertiser search terms,
 - a conversion rate for the advertiser; and
 - an average profit per action for the advertiser.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting bid amounts of the specified advertiser search listings to achieve specified advertiser goals comprises:
- maximizing searcher contacts with a web site of the advertiser.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting bid amounts of the specified advertiser search listings to achieve specified advertiser goals comprises:
- maximizing searcher clicks to web sites of the advertiser.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein adjusting bid amounts comprises maximizing searcher clicks to web sites of the advertiser subject to a maximum cost per click.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting bid amounts comprises:

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varying bid amounts to maximize advertiser profit.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein adjusting bid amounts comprises:

varying bid amounts subject to a maximum cost per click.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
determining advertiser profit based on multiple searcher clicks to one or more
web sites of the advertiser.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
determining advertiser profit based on conversion rate.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
determining search term conversion rates for a plurality of search terms having
independent conversion rates.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
determining search term conversion rates for a plurality of search terms at two or
more ranks, search terms at each rank having independent conversion
rates.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein reviewing bid amounts comprises:
reviewing all bidding combinations for one or more search terms.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein search listings of the
online pay for placement marketplace each have an associated rank, and wherein
reviewing bid amounts comprises:

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4 determining ranks of advertiser search listings in the online pay for placement marketplace which are not likely to achieve the specified advertiser goals; and
ignoring the search listings associated with the determined ranks when adjusting the bid amounts.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
ignoring ranks below a threshold rank.

2 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein search listings of the online pay for placement marketplace each have an associated rank and an associated number of clicks, the method further comprising:
ignoring ranks associated with search listings having fewer clicks than a click threshold.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically recomputing bid amounts in accordance with the flight parameters.

2 21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein search listings of the online pay for placement marketplace each have an associated bid amount, the method further comprising:
receiving an advertiser specified maximum bid amount for one or more search
5 listings; and
adjusting the associated bid amount for the one or more search listings in accordance with the maximum bid amount.

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22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein adjusting the bid amount comprises:

reducing an associated bid amount for a search listing to a level that just exceeds a next-lowest bid amount for the search listing.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving search queries from searchers;

searching in the database for search terms having a match with the search queries;

providing search results from the search terms having a match with the search query;

when a provided search term is clicked by a searcher, transferring economic value from the advertiser associated with the provided search term.

1 (24) (Currently amended) A database search system in a pay for placement
2 marketplace, the database search system comprising:

merely
X { a database of search listings, each search listing including a search term, each
search term associated with a bid amount payable by an advertiser of a
plurality of advertisers when the search listing including the search term is
referred to a searcher in response to a database query from the searcher,
the search listing being displayable with other search listings in a rank
according to the associated bid amounts of the search listing and the other
search listings;
X { a search engine responsive to search queries received over a computer network
from searchers for searching the database; and
a flight management agent responsive to advertiser-specified parameters for
adjusting bid amounts of search listings to manage expenditures over a
time interval.
φ | programmed

wherein

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25. (Original) The database search system of claim 24 wherein the flight management agent is configured to receive information about one or more search terms of an advertiser, a budget, and the time interval.

26. (Original) The database search system of claim 25 wherein the flight management agent is configured to receive information about one or more of a maximum average cost per click for the one or more search terms, a conversion rate and an average profit per action.

27. (Original) The database search system of claim 25 wherein the flight management agent is configured to spend the budget over the time interval.

28. (Original) The database search system of claim 25 wherein the flight management agent is configured to maximize number of clicks to a web site of an advertiser.

29. (Original) The database search system of claim 25 wherein the flight management agent is configured to maximize advertiser profit for an advertiser over the time interval.

30. (Original) The database search system of claim 29 wherein the flight management agent is configured to maximize the advertiser profit subject to a maximum price per click.

31. (Original) The database search system of claim 29 wherein the flight management agent is configured to maximize the advertiser profit by determining profit based on multiple searcher actions at a web site of the advertiser.

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32. (Original) The database search system of claim 29 wherein the flight management agent is configured to maximize advertiser profit by determining profit based on a plurality of search terms having a plurality of conversion rates.

33. (Currently amended) The database search system of claim 29 wherein search terms in the database are each associated with a respective advertiser of the plurality of advertisers, each search term have having an associated rank and wherein the flight management agent is configured to determine advertiser profit for the respective advertiser based on a plurality of search terms associated with the respective advertiser, the plurality of search terms having different conversion rates at different associated ranks.

34. (Previously presented) The database search system of claim 25 wherein the flight management agent is configured to analyze all possible combinations of bids for the one or more search terms and select a combination that provides maximum profit to the advertiser.

35. (~~Currently amended~~) The database search system of claim 25 wherein the flight management agent is configured to analyze only likely combinations of bids for the one or more search terms and select a combination from the likely combinations that provides maximum profit to the advertiser.

36. (Previously presented) The database search system of claim 35 wherein the flight management agent is configured to determine search term ranks not likely to provide the maximum profit to the advertiser.

37. (Previously presented) The database search system of claim 36 wherein search terms of the database each have an associated rank stored in the database and wherein the flight management agent is configured to exclude from further analysis search terms having an associated rank less than a rank threshold.

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38. (Previously presented) The database search system of claim 36 wherein search listings of the database each have an associated number of clicks stored in the database, a click corresponding to a referral of the search listing to a searcher in response to a database query, and wherein the flight management agent is configured to exclude search terms having received a number of clicks fewer than a click threshold.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Original) The database search system of claim 24 wherein the flight management agent is configured to recompute the bid amounts of the search listings from time to time.

42. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable data storage medium; and

computer program code recorded on the computer readable data storage

medium for managing an advertising flight of an advertiser with ~~an online~~

~~marketplace system~~ a pay for placement marketplace, the ~~online~~

~~marketplace system~~ pay for placement marketplace including a database

of search listings associated with respective advertisers, each search

listing including a search term, each search term associated with a bid

amount payable by an advertiser of a plurality of advertisers when the

search listing including the search term is referred to a searcher in

response to a database query from the searcher, the search listing being

displayable with other search listings in a rank according to the associated

bid amounts of the search listing and the other search listings, the

computer program code operative to access search listings of the

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g) advertiser to vary the bid amounts for specified search terms in accordance with advertiser goals for the advertising flight,

3 43. (Currently amended) The article of claim 42 wherein the computer program code comprises code which from time to time checks conditions in the ~~online marketplace system~~ pay for placement marketplace and adjusts bids of advertiser search listings to ensure that advertiser-specified objectives are met.

44. (Previously presented) The article of claim 42 wherein the computer program code comprises code to update bid amounts of the advertiser according to advertiser-specified flight management criteria, the bid amounts being associated with advertiser search terms of a database searchable by searchers, the bid amounts representing economic value payable by the advertiser when a searcher selects a search term of the advertiser.

45. (Previously presented) The database search system of claim 24 wherein the search engine is responsive to search queries received from searchers over the Internet.